



Greetings from Scotland. Beth and I are missionaries in Cumbernauld, Scotland. I moved here in 1994, and Beth and I married in 1995. Both of us are native Scots. It seems a bit strange thinking of ourselves as missionaries in our own country, but there are only seventeen churches of Christ across Scotland, and about eighty throughout the United Kingdom. It is very much a mission field.



Our congregation is multinational. As well as Scots, our church family has Filipinos, Indians, Iranians, Motswana, Zimbabweans, Ethiopians, Nigerians, Ghanaians, Gambians, Ukrainians, Polish, Trinidadians, and Americans. People travel from eight counties to ours in order to hear the truth and worship God as the Bible teaches. It is an interesting experience working with so many different cultures, but the word of God unites us all in faithful service to God.

My co-worker, Adam Barr moved to Cumbernauld in 1987 when he married his wife, Melanie. Like me, they are native Scots too. Adam, Melanie, and I grew up in East Kilbride about a mile apart, but we never knew each other until I became a Christian. Their daughter, Nicole, is very active in the church too, especially with the young people.



Adam, Nicole, and Melanie Barr

As the congregation doesn't have an eldership yet, much of the spiritual care falls to Adam and I, and without deacons, we wear many hats in our ministry. A typical week involves two worship services on a Sunday. Adam and I share the pulpit, taking alternate weeks to preach. Both of us will teach on a Sunday morning, and Tuesday evening when we do our youth Bible classes. On a Tuesday, we have a youth club which serves the community and provides outreach to local families. On a Thursday, we have an adult Bible class which Adam and I rotate between us. We are teaching twice

a week, and sometimes three times a week as well as preparing sermons.

During the day there are personal Bible studies with people we are teaching about the truth, and sometimes with brethren who want to learn more and

mature their faith. There are times when we are helping folk through difficult times. Sometimes it is spiritual advice, sometimes it is physical needs. We have a community food bank that mostly falls to us. With many of our members not living in the town, they can't be as involved as they would like.



Tuesday evening teens' class

We are very invested in preparing the next generation for leadership. Members like Nicole Barr and Edwin Offin have taken a lead in our youth work that allows us to focus on other areas of our ministry. Brian Buchanan organises the plan for each worship service. Brian didn't grow up in the church and came in contact with us when he was about 8 years old through our youth work on Tuesdays. He became a Christian when he was 17 years old and is very active in the church.



Sunday morning adult Bible class.

On Sunday evenings, we encourage our men to take the opportunity to preach the gospel. This is part of our preparing the next generation. Given how many different towns and counties our membership travel from, it is an opportunity to better prepare them to teach and preach in their own communities.



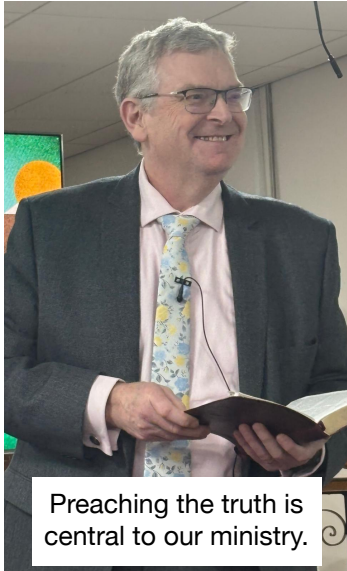
Caleb teaching on giving.



Camp Heatherbell 2025

During the year, we have annual events that serve the congregation and the community. In July, we direct Camp Heatherbell, a week-long camp for children ages 8–17. Most of our staff are from Cumbernauld and pay their own way to serve the children. Some of the campers are church kids, many are unchurched kids.

Every other summer, we have an outreach mission. This involves our sponsoring congregations visiting and running a VBS for the week. It's a busy week. We have outreach in the morning, VBS in the afternoons, and then a gospel meeting in the evening. In the year we don't have a summer mission, we have two seminars: one in April, the second in October. This is a week of



Preaching the truth is central to our ministry.

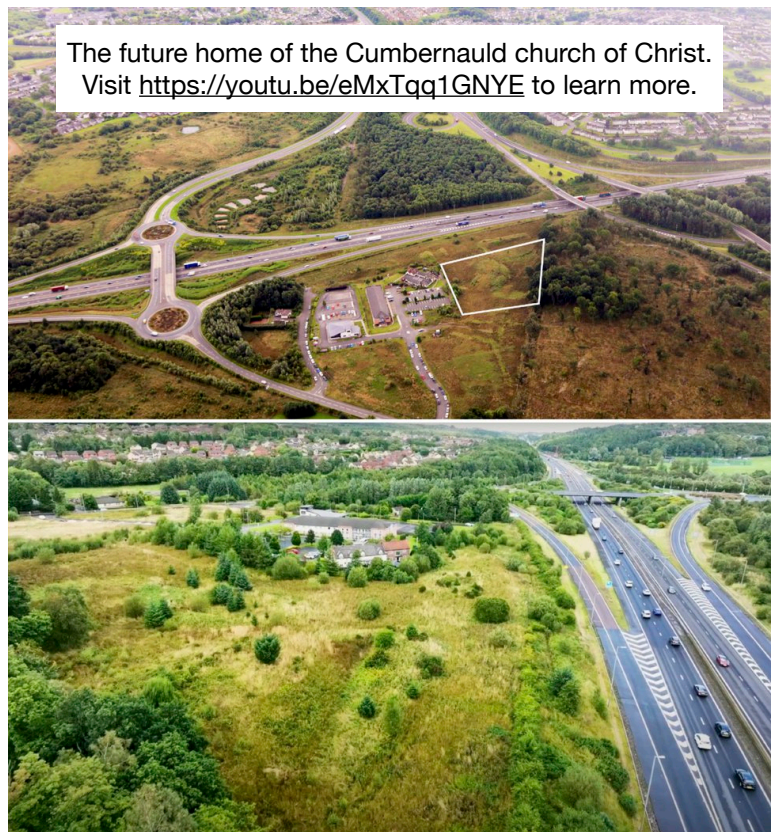
intensive study on a Bible subject. The speaker is usually an American connected to our work. Brethren from across Scotland are invited to the event. In September, we have Recharge which is a weekend of intensive study with our teens on a relevant subject (e.g. social media, gender roles, etc.). We have a congregational retreat in November when many of our families take the opportunity for mutual encouragement and fellowship. It's a beautiful time together in the Highlands of Scotland.



Edwin has become a leader respected by our young people. Lilia was baptised March 2026.

Our main project just now is fundraising for our new building. In 2017, we were overwhelmed by our God when we purchased 3.34 acres of land on prime real estate on the main highway through town.

The land was on sale for £3,340,000—£1,000,000 per acre. We had no chance and no interest in spending that much money. However, God opened doors in 2017, and we were able to purchase the land for £288,000—less than 1/10th of the original marketed price. God's providence was stunning. Now, we are fundraising to build a new meeting place on the land. It's a long-term project because the estimated cost of the facility is £4,175,000. The plan is to have something that is used daily by the community so we can build relationships with locals and



The future home of the Cumbernauld church of Christ. Visit <https://youtu.be/eMxTq1GNYE> to learn more.

teach the gospel. Its central and prominent location will benefit the local work and have an impact for the churches of Christ across Scotland. It is an incredible opportunity. It's a daunting one too. However, having seen what God has done already in getting us the land, we have confidence in Him that He has us firmly in His plans.

The congregation is maturing in its responsibilities to the local work. The contribution has grown annually, and the brethren are being trained on giving and ministry. It's taken some time and the need for numerical growth to get to a point where more of the support for local evangelism is taken on by the church in Cumbernauld. Other than evangelists' support, the church covers all its costs for the day-to-day running of the outreach and edification of the work.

At the end of 2023, we had a series of lessons using Rob Whitacre's "School of Evangelism" DVDs. This emboldened the members who began inviting more friends and neighbours to meet the church. Over the past two years, we have had 25 baptisms, unprecedented growth in my 32 years here. Young and old alike have come to the cross to meet the



Eddie Murray's baptism



Kelechi's Baptism

Saviour and it is a very exciting time for the church. Several conversion studies are ongoing too. On the first Sunday in March 2026, we had a "Bring-a-Friend" worship service and fellowship meal. We had more 33 visitors on the day. It was the first time in our current meeting place that we had to clear away chairs from the worship area to accommodate the extra table we needed for lunch!

A major effort/activity now is raising funds for the new building. We asked our congregation to pledge £50,000 towards the new building, and they pledged more than £100,000 toward it. Adam and I take turns to travel to America to visit elderships and missions'

committees to tell about our plans and ask for help with rest of the money needed to build. It means we travel a lot and will continue doing so until we have raised the funds. Banks in Britain won't lend money to churches, so we have to ask brethren to help us do that. It's a big task, but given what God has done already, we are confident that that He is working to help us achieve this task. When it is done, there will be no doubt that God accomplished this great work.



Fundraising in America has meant many meetings with elderships and congregations across America.

Beth and I are married 30 years now. We have been blessed with four children—Joshua, Megan, Bethany, and Elijah—and one granddaughter—Amelia. Sadly, none of our children are faithful to the Lord, but we remain prayerful for them, and conversations are encouraging. One of the challenges in Scotland with the education system is how secular—even anti-theist—it has become. Ultimately, worldliness is everywhere. Every family in the church faces these challenges. It is difficult at times, and the role of the church in supporting one another can never be underestimated. We are glad to have such a loving family, both biological and spiritual. The latter extends across continents. We are amazed how small the world is when seen from inside the church. We know and love brethren across all the continents because of our own brethren. It is truly an amazing family to which we belong.

Thank you for the encouragement to write this, for the many prayers offered on our behalf, and for the love of Christ that binds us together. May God hear your names in prayers and smile.

We love you.

Graham & Beth McDonald

